

# Reagan Putting Contra Aid Laws Into Effect

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 23 — President Reagan today began putting legislation into effect to funnel \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan rebels and allow the Central Intelligence Agency to resume direct support of the insurgent forces.

An Administration official said President Reagan signed parts of an executive order providing \$70 million in lethal aid to the rebels, or contras, and \$30 million in what is officially termed nonlethal aid. The order, and a classified national security directive dealing with details of the program, are expected to be completed and signed by the President this week.

Administration officials said when the order is completed and signed this week, the C.I.A. will resume its relationship with the contras. Agency officers are expected to provide the contras with a complete range of tactical and political advice, from planning to recruitment of personnel for specialized missions.

## Special Forces Officers

While C.I.A. officers and other American officials will be banned from operating inside Nicaragua, the contra forces will be able to undertake operations inside the country under the agency's supervision.

Administration officials have said that special forces officers from the Pentagon will also be involved in efforts to train the contra officer corps. Analysts say the rebels suffer from a lack of qualified middle-level officers.

One of the first priorities for the C.I.A.'s clandestine operators will be to replace the hodgepodge of efforts to supply private aid to the contras during the Congressional ban. Earlier this month, a cargo plane involved in that effort was shot down over Nicaragua.

Administration officials have said that day-to-day direction of the program will be handled by the C.I.A. with overall policy guidance provided by the

State Department. Elliott Abrams, the Assistant Secretary of Inter-American Affairs, is expected to be the key State Department official responsible for the program, although details have not yet been fully worked out.

Until 1984, the C.I.A. covertly assisted the contras, and some of those activities stirred sharp criticism within Congress. In 1983, for instance, the agency put together an operation in which Latin American commandos mined the Corinto harbor. The mines exploded when hit by ships delivering goods to Nicaragua.

## Mining of Harbors

An Administration official noted that the mining of harbors would be permitted under the new program, provided it did not involve any United States operation inside Nicaraguan borders.

When the mining was disclosed in 1984, members of Congress complained that they had not been adequately notified. Congressional oversight of the \$100 million aid package will once again be carried out by the House and Senate Select Committees on Intelligence, which monitored the original covert program in the first years of the Reagan Administration.

Aid to the contras was cut off by Congress in 1984. Last year, the ban was partially lifted to allow for \$27 million in humanitarian aid.

Bosco Matamoros, a spokesman for the contras, said the money would buy the rebels better equipment and help them increase the number of soldiers in the field.